

Executive Registry

1-9671

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Grogan, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Victor Riesel request for information on the
World Federation of Trade Unions.

1. In answer to Mr. Riesel's request dated 8 October 1959 for information on recent WFTU activities, IO has prepared the attached summary. The information contained in this paper is based largely on overt material but has been supplemented with information from classified reporting. There are no significant developments known to us in recent weeks in WFTU activities which have been eliminated because of classification.

2. In view of the continuing importance of WFTU as one of the leading Communist front organizations as well as the large audience which Mr. Riesel's column reaches, the Director has asked that you discuss this situation personally with Mr. Riesel and provide him with the attached paper per his request.

3. The Riesel correspondence is also attached to this memorandum.

CORD MEYER, JR.

Chief

International Organizations Division

Attachments:

- 1 - Recent Activities of WFTU
- 2 - Riesel Correspondence

cc: ER u/basic

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DATE: 4/3/87 REVIEWER: _____

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RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

The activities of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) during September demonstrated anew the flexibility of Communist subversive techniques. In some areas WFTU saw fit to adopt a bold policy of working openly under its own auspices or those of the Soviet Union, while in others it continued to work behind-the-scenes through Communist dominated unions or fellow-travelling unions in the free world.

In Africa, WFTU publicly set itself up as a center for training African trade unionists. On 1 September, the organ of the so-called Hungarian trade union, Nepszava, reported that a four-week school for African trade union leaders had opened the previous day in Budapest under the sponsorship of WFTU. Thirty trade union leaders from ten African countries were said to be in attendance. The courses stressed "the struggle against colonialism, the role of the workers' class and the trade unions in the fight for national independence, the economic and social problems of the backward countries, the role of trade unions in social insurance, as well as . . . the fight for trade union rights, . . . and the fight for peace and unity." In an apparent move to strengthen its hand over the development of African trade unions, WFTU is rumored to be supplying funds through its European affiliates to African unions for the purpose of establishing indigenous labor training schools. The emphasis on the identity of WFTU with the anti-colonial struggle is an increasingly successful line in the underdeveloped countries. It paid off handsomely for WFTU in July when the constituent congress of Iraqi trade unions voted to affiliate to WFTU.

In Asia, the principal WFTU efforts have been behind the scenes, operating through the Soviet and Chinese puppet trade union organizations. In May a Communist-sponsored Pacific Dock Workers Conference was held in Tokyo. In addition to the leftist All-Japan Harbor Workers Union, which acted as host, representatives from Canada, the United States, Australia, Cambodia and the USSR were in attendance. Harry Bridges of the West Coast International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union was a key figure. The Conference voted to establish an International Harbor Workers Information Center to serve as a liaison center for unions which participated in the May conference. The office opened on 1 August and is temporarily housed in the headquarters of the All-Japan Harbor Workers Union.

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Executive Registry

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NEW YORK MIRROR

DAILY AND SUNDAY

235 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 2-1000

October 8, 1959

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Allen Dulles:

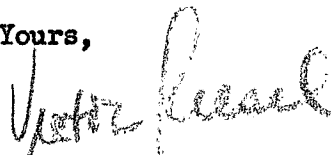
I haven't written because of what must have been tremendous pressure on you and your time in the past few months.

I received your letter the morning I arrived in Paris. On that day the newspapers carried the first stories on Khrushchev's planned visit to the United States.

Now that the smoke has settled behind that little boar, perhaps I could get from you a page or two, with quotes, on what the World Federation of Trade Unions did during the Chairman's mission to Washington and points west.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours,



Victor Riesel

VR:dp

P.S. I am certain that by this time you have been briefed on Khrushchev's session with the labor leaders in San Francisco. If ever this man revealed the real Khrushchev, it was at that dinner. It was a study in contempt and disdain.

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Remarks:

Cord: The Director wants to be sure
and speak to you when he sees you
at 4:30 - 14 October 1959.

JSE

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